

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 MMO-01 COME-00 EB-07 A-01 SS-15

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R 061410Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5713

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BEXP, KU, TC, QA, BA, MU

SUBJ: PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL ATTACHE, TECHNICAL SERVICES
POSITION IN GULF

REF: STATE 163344

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY APPRAISAL OF KUWAIT'S PRESENT REQUIREMENTS FOR REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SUGGESTS THAT ASSIGNMENT OF AID ATTACHE TO KUWAIT NOT RPT NOT JUSTIFIED. MAJOR SOURCE OF FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN KUWAIT CONTINUES TO BE UNDP PROGRAM. REQUESTS FOR USG TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CAN BE PROMOTED EFFECTIVELY BY THE EMBASSY, SUPPORTED BY A DESIGNATED OFFICER IN WASHINGTON. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSED POSITION WOULD BE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT TO PROVIDE WITH PRESENT RESOURCES.
END SUMMARY.

2. SUBJECT OF U.S. AND OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN KUWAIT WAS DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY DURING VISIT OF BERGET TEAM. CONSENSUS OF EMBASSY OFFICERS AT THAT TIME WAS THAT AID COULD PROVIDE BETTER ASSISTANCE BY ESTABLISHING "DESK" OR DESIGNATING GULF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICER BASED IN
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WASHINGTON WHO COULD QUICKLY HANDLE REQUESTS FROM GOK OR

KUWAITI PRIVATE SECTOR CHanneled THROUGH EMBASSY. IDEALLY, THIS OFFICER WOULD VISIT KUWAIT AND OTHER GULF POSTS TWO OR THREE TIMES PER YEAR TO MEET LOCAL OFFICIALS AND REVIEW PROGRAMS.

3. MOST KUWAITI REQUESTS FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GO THROUGH UNDP PROGRAM, WHICH NOW INCLUDES 57 EXPERTS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT GOVERNMENT AND QUASI-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. UNDP IS FILLING ITS ROLE CAPABLY AND GOK GENERALLY SEEMS SATISFIED WITH WORK OF UNDP ADVISORS, FOUR OF WHOM ARE U.S. CITIZENS. SECONDARY AND MUCH SMALLER SOURCE OF EXPERTISE IS INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS (IESC) WHICH, AT ANY GIVEN TIME, HAS APPROX. SIX EXPERTS WORKING WITH KUWAITI PRIVATE COMPANIES AND GOVERNMENT ON TWO OR THREE-MONTH CONTRACTS. THIS PROGRAM ALSO APPEARS TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND IESC EXECUTIVES HAVE EARNED GOOD REPUTATION AMONG KUWAITI BUSINESSMEN.

4. BEYOND ESTABLISHED ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNDP AND IESC, KUWAITIS COULD CAPITALIZE ON FOREIGN BUSINESS REPRESENTATION, INCLUDING NUMEROUS AMERICANS LOCATED HERE, AS WELL AS ON THEIR EXTENSIVE FOREIGN CONTACTS, TO RECRUIT TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND OBTAIN INFORMATION ON TECHNOLOGIES AND COMMODITIES AVAILABLE. GOK ADVERTISES DIRECTLY FOR FOREIGN TECHNICIANS AND USUALLY RECEIVES ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSES. (FOR EXAMPLE, KUWAIT MUNICIPALITY ADVERTISED FOR THREE AMERICAN EXPERTS FOR ITS URBAN PLANNING SECTION AND RECEIVED OVER 300 REPLIES, FINALLY SETTLING ON THREE U.S. CITIZENS WHO ARE CONCLUDING THEIR FIRST YEAR IN KUWAIT.)

5. BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR GOK, EMBASSY FEELS THERE IS NEED TO REVIEW AID CONTRACTING PROCEDURES WITH VIEW TOWARDS ACHIEVING QUICKER RESPONSE TO HOST GOVERNMENT REQUESTS. KUWAIT HAS TWO EXPERTS WORKING WITH NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY WHO WERE RECRUITED THROUGH EMBASSY AND AID. WHILE GOK VERY PLEASED OVER CAPABILITIES AND PERFORMANCE THESE OFFICIALS, LENGTHY PROBLEMS WITH CONTRACTING PROCEDURES, METHODS OF PAYMENT, AND GOVERNMENT RED TAPE LEFT NHA CONSIDERABLY DISAPPOINTED.

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6. EMBASSY ADMINISTRATIVE RESOURCES (ALSO INCLUDING OFFICE SPACE) NOW FULLY EXTENDED IN EFFORT TO SUPPORT EXISTING USG POSITIONS IN KUWAIT AND WILL BE HARD PUT TO HANDLE EXPECTED INFLUX OF MILITARY PERSONNEL UNDER FMS PROGRAM. FOR THIS REASON, EMBASSY KUWAIT WAS NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SEVERAL REGIONAL POSITIONS FROM BEIRUT LAST YEAR.

7. IN ANSWER TO OTHER SPECIFIC QUESTION RAISED IN REF-
TELS:

A) LOCATION -- APART FROM VIEW THAT WASHINGTON WOULD BE
BEST LOCATION, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT BAHRAIN WOULD BE BEST
LOCATION IN GULF BUT WOULD DEFER TO EMBASSY MANAMA'S JUDG-
MENT IF IT NOT RPT NOT ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE EXTRA
POSITION.

B) RANK -- WERE SUCH A POSITION TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE,
EMBASSY WOULD DESIRE THAT RANK OF ATTACHE NOT BE HIGHER
THAN FSR-3, SINCE MORE SENIOR OFFICER WOULD UNBALANCE
PRESENT EMBASSY RANK STRUCTURE.

C) EFFECT ON COMMERCIAL SECTION -- EMBASSY WOULD NOT ANTI-
CIPATE ANY REAL EASING OF WORKLOAD. IN A SENSE, SENIOR
AID OFFICER WOULD BE COMPETING WITH AMBASSADOR, DCM AND
CHIEF OF ECONOMIC SECTION IN CONTACTING RELATIVELY FEW KEY
KUWAITI DECISION-MAKERS.

D) VIEW OF PRIVATE SECTOR -- ANY ASSIGNMENT OF GOVERNMENT
ADVISOR IN POSITION WHICH COULD BE FILLED BY PRIVATE SECTOR
ON CONTRACT WOULD BE RECEIVED CRITICALLY BY AMERICAN
PRIVATE CONSULTANTS. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF RECENT ARCHITECT/
ENGINEER TRADE MISSION TO KUWAIT COMPLAINED VOCIFEROUSLY
OVER PRESENCE OF FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION ADVISORS
IN MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TO LESSER EXTENT, OVER USG
RECRUITMENT OF ADVISORS FOR NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY,
ALTHOUGH THESE TWO COME FROM PRIVATE SECTOR AND ARE NOT
RPT NOT USG EMPLOYEES.

E) TIMING -- EMBASSY KUWAIT SEES NO URGENT NEED FOR
CREATION THIS POSITION UNLESS AGGREGATE DEMAND OF GULF
POSTS MAKES IT NECESSARY. GOK WILL RETURN TO HIGH GEAR
ONLY AFTER SUMMER VACATIONS AND RAMADAN END IN LATE
SEPTEMBER.

MAESTRONE

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